FEED THE FUTURE
The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

Agricultural Technology Marketplace

A "Virtual Farm" to Increase Smallholder Farmer Success

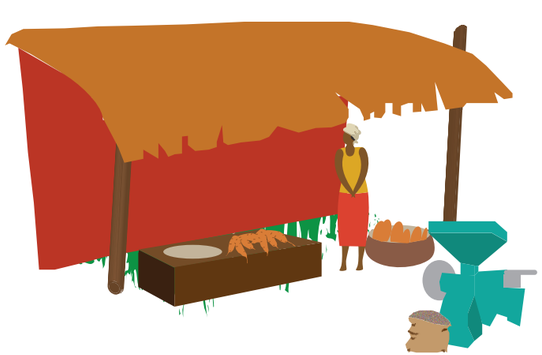
Feed the Future partners with farmer union FEPROMAS in Senegal to create a "Virtual Farm" using mobile and web technology to coordinate and communicate among 3,000 farms across 12,000 acres. This helps smallholder farmers track their production levels and coordinate sales, enabling them to compete with large industrial farms and increasing their collective ability to raise incomes.

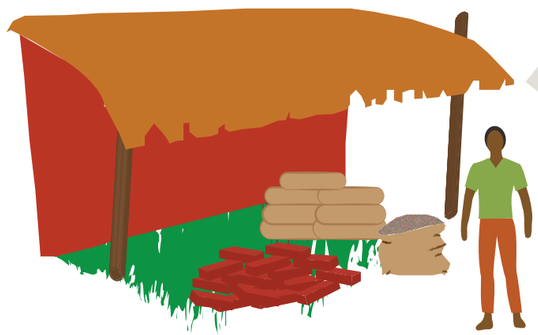
Healthy Food for Schools Helps Build the Local Economy

Feed the Future partners with the popular yogurt and grain product company Mamelles Jaboot to develop a "school breakfast pack" that brings their healthy product to schools, helping to increase nutrition in young children. This links the Senegalese company with 600 local millet farmers and includes local women in the processing of the millet, creating many jobs on and off the farm. By working together with a variety of partners, Feed the Future is helping to feed Africa through local investment, empowering women, and using nutritious local food.

Addressing Undernutrition in Senegal

In Senegal, Feed the Future is emphasizing bio-fortified crops that increase nutrition in target populations in the most food-insecure regions of Senegal, especially women and children. Examples include orange-fleshed sweet potatoes bio-fortified with vitamin A, pearl millet bio-fortified with iron and zinc, and common beans bio-fortified with iron and zinc. This increased vitamin intake means healthier, more vibrant communities.





Smart Agriculture: Conservation Farming and Smart Seeds

In response to low rice yields in Senegal, Feed the Future launched a project introducing local farmers to New Rice for Africa (NERICA), a high-yielding, rain-fed rice variety developed by the research organization AfricaRice. The pilot program in 2010 enabled 112 Senegalese farmers to produce 104 tons of rice and sell 29 tons, resulting in earnings of about $12,000 collectively. Last year, the number of farmers using NERICA jumped to nearly 5,000.

To help nourish crops, many farmers spread fertilizer blocks into floodwaters to stimulate rice paddy plants, a practice that can result in a loss of up to two-thirds of the fertilizer and damage the environment. To avoid this, the International Fertilizer Development Center helps farmers use fertilizer deep placement, where fertilizer briquettes are placed 7 to 10 centimeters below the soil surface. The process results in fewer greenhouse gas emissions, less groundwater contamination, and higher crop yields.

Improved Rice and Efficient Rice Milling

Feed the Future is supporting women's groups in Senegal by helping them use New Rice for Africa (NERICA) improved rice seeds developed by research organization AfricaRice. Because their productivity has now tripled by using these seeds, they can now afford the cost of tools like rice mills, which save tremendous physical effort and free up their time for other household and income-generating activities.

President Obama toured a Feed the Future Agricultural Technology Marketplace on June 28, 2013. Illustrative of Feed the Future's modern, rigorous approach, the marketplace included a gathering of several West African private sector entities, NGO partners, and farmers demonstrating how key research and innovation can help improve the lives of smallholder farmers. During the tour, President Obama announced the release of the 2013 Feed the Future Progress Report.